

## REMARKS

Applicants file this Preliminary Amendment in connection with the filing of the original patent application papers for the captioned application. After a restriction requirement, claims 1-5 and 20 were prosecuted in related U.S. Serial No. 08/863,834, filed on May 27, 1997, and which is now scheduled to become U.S. Patent No. 6,066,919.

Dated: May 22, 2000

Respectfully submitted,

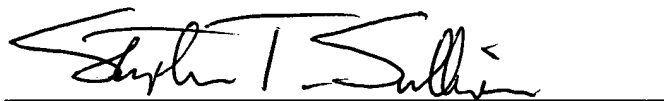


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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Box Patent Application, Assistant Commissioner For Patents, U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE, Washington, D.C. 20231



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